

Borough of Shrewsbury



# REPORT

OF THE

## MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR

1939

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A. D. SYMONS, M.D., D.P.H.

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## BOROUGH OF SHREWSBURY

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### THE PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE.

Mr. Alderman ADAMS (Chairman).

Mr. Alderman	PERKS.	Mr. Councillor	LEA.
"	"	"	"
	SMOUT	"	"
Mr. Councillor	BENNETT.	"	"
Councillor Mrs.	BURRELL.	"	"
Mr. Councillor	GOULDBOURN.	"	"
"	"	"	"
	HUGHES.	"	"
		"	"
			URWICK.

### THE MATERNITY and CHILD WELFARE SUB-COMMITTEE.

Mr. Alderman ADAMS (Chairman).

Mr. Alderman	MANSELL.	Mr. Councillor	BENNETT.
"	"	"	"
	PERKS.	"	"
"	"	"	"
	SMOUT	"	"
Councillor Mrs.	BURRELL.	"	"
Miss M. BROMLEY.		"	"
Miss E. DOUCE.		"	"
Mrs. FELTUS.		"	"
			TILLING.
			MRS. GALE.
			MARGARET LADY LEIGHTON.

### THE SHREWSBURY and ATCHAM JOINT HOSPITAL BOARD.

Mr. Alderman ADAMS (Chairman).

Mr. Alderman	T. COOPER.	Mr. Councillor	ELLIS JONES
"	"	"	"
	SMOUT.	"	"
Mr. Councillor	BIRCH.	"	"
Councillor Mrs.	BURRELL.	"	"
T. KYNASTON, Esq. (Vice-Chairman).		"	"
W. BEBBINGTON, Esq.			URWICK.
			T. JONES, Esq.
			V. C. RAYWOOD, Esq., J.P.

### STAFF OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

Medical Officer of Health.	}	†A. D. SYMONS, M.D., Ch.B., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.
School Medical Officer.		
Medical Officer for Maternity and Child Welfare.		
Medical Superintendent of Small- pox and Isolation Hospitals.		

**Assistant Medical Officer of Health :**

KATHLEEN M. BALL, M.B., B.Ch., D.P.H.  
(appointed March 20th, 1939).

<b>Sanitary Inspectors :</b>	{ §†*NORMAN HANCOCK, M.S.I.A. §†*L. N. GREGORY. §†I. G. GRIFFITHS.
<b>Housing Inspector :</b>	§†R. STAPLES (resigned 30th Sept.)
<b>Health Visitors :</b>	{ †Miss W. KYD-AITKEN, C.M.B. †Miss M. E. OWEN, C.M.B.
<b>Health Visitor and School Nurse :</b>	†Miss E. L. HUGHES, C.M.B.
<b>School Nurse :</b>	†Miss M. WILLIAMS.
<b>Matron of Isolation Hospital :</b>	Miss A. K. ELLIS.
<b>Chief Clerk and Laboratory Assistant :</b>	†G. NICHOLAS.
<b>Assistant Clerks :</b>	{ †Miss F. C. PUDDLE. C. T. MABBOTT. †K. G. ROBERTSON. R. MULLARD.
<b>Abattoir Superintendent and Meat Inspector :</b>	*FRANK FARRELL.

**PART TIME OFFICERS.**

<b>Medical Officer of Ante-Natal Clinic, Obstetric Consultant and Consultant for Puerperal Pyrexia, etc.</b>	{ A. SIMPSON, M.B., Ch.B., F.R.C.S.E.
<b>Dental Officer Maternity and Child Welfare :</b>	C. LYTH HUDSON, L.D.S.
<b>Sampling Officer :</b>	W. C. HEAS.
<b>Meteorological Observer :</b>	H. A. HOWE.
<b>Public Analyst :</b>	HAROLD LOWE, M.Sc., F.I.C.

\*Qualified Meat Inspectors.

†Contribution towards salary made under Public Health Acts or by Exchequer grants.

§Qualified Sanitary Inspectors.

HEALTH CENTRE,  
MURIVANCE,  
SHIREWSBURY.

*July, 1940.*

*To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the  
Borough of Shrewsbury.*

MR. MAYOR, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report on the health of the Borough during the year 1939.

In the interests of economy the Report is mostly composed of bare facts and figures required by the Ministry of Health.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,

A. D. SYMONS.

## GENERAL STATISTICS 1939

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Rateable value of the Borough	...	...	...	£293,861
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	...	...	...	£1,157
Area of the Borough (excluding water) in acres				8,034
Population (a) (Registrar General's estimate middle of 1939)	...	...	...	39,270
(b) Average population appropriate to the calculation of death rates	...	...	...	40,260
Persons per acre calculated on above population				5.0
Inhabited houses (December 31st, 1939)	...	...	...	11,250

	MALE.		FEMALE.			
Live Births	{	Legitimate 292	265	}	Total	582
		Illegitimate 15	10			
BIRTH RATE per 1,000 estimated resident population						14.7
Stillbirths	...	...	...	...	...	31
Stillbirth Rate per 1,000 Total Births	...	...	...	...	...	50.6
Deaths	...	...	...	...	...	515
DEATH RATE per 1,000 estimated average population						12.8
Deaths from Puerperal Sepsis	...	...	...	...		1
„ „ Other Puerperal causes	...	...	...	...		1
MATERNAL MORTALITY per 1,000 Total Births (live and still)	...	...	...	...	...	3.3
INFANT MORTALITY RATE	...	...	...	...		57
Legitimate Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 legitimate live births	...	...	...	...	...	58
Illegitimate Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 illegitimate live births	...	...	...	...	...	40
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	...	...	...	...		63
„ „ Measles (all ages)	...	...	...	...		0
„ „ Whooping Cough (all ages)	...	...	...	...		1
„ „ Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	...	...	...	...		1



## WEATHER CONDITIONS.

The Climatological Station which is recognised and approved by the Air Ministry is situated at Monkmoor Isolation Hospital.

**Rainfall.** The total rainfall was 29.01 inches, compared with 23.78 and 24.55 inches in the previous years respectively.

**Sunshine.** The number of hours of bright sunshine recorded was 1294.6, compared with 1306.2 and 1174.1 in the previous years respectively.

**Temperatures.** Extremes of temperature during the year were as follows :—

<b>Warmest Day</b> (Highest Maximum)	June 6th	87°
<b>Warmest Night</b> (Highest Minimum)	August 29th	63°
<b>Coldest Day</b> (Lowest Maximum)	February 2nd	31°
<b>Coldest Night</b> (Lowest Minimum)	January 6th	6°

The Observer at the Station (Mr. H. A. Howe) has now completed 10 years of observations and has throughout maintained an accuracy which is commendable.

A monthly summary of the readings is set out in the following table.

# Weather Statistics. Shrewsbury 1939.

1939 Month.	Barometric Pressure in Inches.	AIR TEMPERATURE IN SHADE. OF.				Hottest Day in Sun.	SUNSHINE IN HOURS.			RAINFALL IN INCHES.			
		Mean Maximum.	Highest Maximum and Date.	Mean Minimum.	Lowest Minimum and Date.		Mean Temperatures.	Most Sunshine in one Day.	Daily Means.	Total Hours.	No. of Rainy Days.	Greatest Fall in one Day.	Total Rainfall.
January	29.595	44.2	55° on 8th	33.2	6° on 6th	38.7	81° on 18th	5.2 on 13th	0.76	23.9	20	0.65 on 10th	5.02
February	30.017	48.3	57° on 11th	36.9	21° on 3rd	42.6	91° on 25th	7.8 on 6th 24th and 26th	2.71	76.0	13	0.41 on 27th	1.14
March	30.030	49.0	60° on 3rd	37.3	28° on 13th	43.1	99° on 6th	8.3 on 22nd	2.41	74.8	16	0.51 on 8th	1.59
April	29.937	56.0	71° on 12th	39.6	30° on 28th and 29th	47.8	108° on 13th	13.1 on 20th	5.16	154.7	17	0.25 on 4th	1.72
May	30.103	61.9	76° on 23rd	42.9	32° on 6th	52.0	128° on 10th	14.5 on 30th	5.60	173.5	9	0.28 on 14th	0.85
June	30.033	67.2	87° on 6th	46.9	36° on 4th and 26th	57.0	124° on 7th	15.0 on 5th	7.35	220.5	15	0.27 on 15th	1.42
July	29.820	66.7	72° on 4th and 29th	52.6	41° on 25th	59.6	121° on 7th and 30th	13.3 on 1st	4.10	126.9	22	0.75 on 19th	4.86
August	30.030	69.9	76° on 15th and 17th	54.3	44° on 13th	62.1	122° on 13th	11.7 on 15th	4.92	152.6	18	1.07 on 28th	2.55
September	30.156	64.4	80° on 8th	47.6	30° on 28th	56.0	120° on 9th	11.3 on 12th	4.17	125.0	7	0.21 on 2nd	0.59
October	29.918	53.5	64° on 5th	37.2	26° on 21st	45.3	100° on 8th	7.8 on 20th	3.07	95.2	20	0.65 on 17th	3.06
November	29.760	52.4	60° on 14th	42.3	31° on 22nd	47.3	86° on 7th	6.7 on 9th	1.43	42.9	21	0.75 on 18th	4.07
December	30.021	43.6	57° on 1st	32.0	14° on 29th	37.8	68° on 25th	6.4 on 6th	0.92	28.6	15	0.52 on 7th	2.14
										1294.6	193		29.01

# VITAL STATISTICS. VITAL STATISTICS OF WHOLE DISTRICT DURING 1939 AND PREVIOUS YEARS.

YEAR.	Population (estimated) each year.		BIRTHS.		TOTAL DEATHS REGISTERED IN THE DISTRICT.	TRANSFERABLE DEATHS.		NETT DEATHS BELONGING TO THE DISTRICT.					
			Un- corrected Number.	Nett.		of Non- residents registered in the District.	of Resi- dents not registered in the District	Under 1 Year of Age.		At all Ages.			
	Birth Rate.	Death Rate.		Number.	Rate.			Number.	Rate per 1,000 Nett Births.	Number.	Rate.		
												Crude.	Adjusted.
1929	32630	31090	603	552	16.9	492	163	95	28	50.7	424	13.2	10.4
1930	33000	32530	579	538	16.3	412	131	87	42	78	368	11.3	8.8
1931	32680	32100	566	501	15.3	488	169	93	30	60	412	12.8	12.2
1932		32990	539	481	14.5	439	143	88	22	45	384	11.6	11.1
1933		33220	572	418	14.9	452	162	105	22	44	405	12.2	11.7
1934		36316	536	467	12.8	572	209	96	35	75	459	12.6	11.9
1935		37500	542	519	13.8	545	223	67	16	31	389	10.4	9.7
1936		37900	564	564	15.0	590	211	109	26	46	488	13.0	12.3
1937		38120	535	587	15.4	599	213	104	24	41	490	12.8	12.1
1938		38180	489	587	15.2	608	232	118	22	37	494	12.8	12.1
1939		39270	40260	582	14.7	619	222	118	33	57	515	12.8	12.2

## POPULATION.

The Registrar General's estimate of the population of Shrewsbury at the middle of 1939 was 40,260, which is the highest population so far recorded for Shrewsbury.

## BIRTHS.

There were 582 live births compared with 587 in the two previous years respectively.

The birth rate for 1939 was 14.7 compared with 15.2 and 15.4 in the previous years respectively.

The birth rates elsewhere as compared with Shrewsbury were as follows.

				BIRTH RATES.	
				per 1,000 Population.	
				Live Births.	Stillbirths.
England and Wales	...	...	...	15.0	0.59
London	...	...	...	12.3	0.44
126 Great Towns	...	...	...	14.8	0.59
148 Smaller Towns	...	...	...	15.6	0.57
SHREWSBURY	...	...	...	14.7	0.79

The 582 live births may be analysed as follows :—

		Legitimate.	Illegitimate.		
Male	...	292	15	}	582
Female	...	265	10		

## Illegitimate Births.

There were 25 illegitimate births compared with 30 and 22 in the previous years respectively.

The illegitimate birth rate was 0.63 per 1,000 population, the illegitimate births being a percentage of 4.3 of the total live births.

**Stillbirths.**

There were 31 stillbirths compared with 24 in the two previous years respectively.

The stillbirth rate per 1,000 total population was 0.79, the stillbirths being a percentage of 5.0 of the total births.

**DEATHS.**

The total number of deaths during the year was 515, compared with 494 and 490 in the previous years respectively.

Of the 515 deaths, 251 were males and 264 were females.

The crude death rate was 12.8 per 1,000 population, which is the same as in the two previous years respectively.

## CAUSES OF AND AGES AT DEATH DURING THE YEAR 1939.

CAUSES OF DEATH	NETT DEATHS AT THE SUBJOINED AGES OF "RESIDENTS" WHETHER OCCURRING WITHIN OR WITHOUT THE DISTRICT.													
	Male	Female	Under 1	1	2	3	4	5	10	15	20	35	45	65 and over
	251	264	33	4	1	1	—	6	4	2	29	35	119	281
Typhoid Fever, etc	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough ... ..	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Diphtheria ... ..	2	4	—	1	1	—	—	3	1	—	—	—	—	—
Influenza ... ..	2	7	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	6
Encephalitis Lethargica	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cerebro-Spinal Fever ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Respiratory Tuberculosis	7	10	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	7	5	—
Other Tuberculosis ... ..	5	2	1	1	—	—	—	1	1	2	1	—	—	—
Syphilis... ..	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—
General Paralysis of insane, etc. ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cancer ... ..	30	33	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	3	24	34
Diabetes ... ..	3	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	2
Cerebral Haemorrhage ...	22	21	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	12	31
Heart Disease ... ..	79	79	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	4	5	29	119
Aneurysm ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other Circulatory Diseases	5	10	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	4	10
Bronchitis ... ..	10	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	5	8
Pneumonia ... ..	9	11	7	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	5	5
Other Respiratory Diseases	1	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Peptic Ulcer ... ..	5	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	3	5
Diarrhoea, &c. (under 2 years) ... ..	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Appendicitis ... ..	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—
Cirrhosis of Liver ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other liver Diseases ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other digestive Diseases	1	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	4	1
Nephritis ... ..	3	10	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	3	2	4
Puerperal Sepsis ... ..	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Other Puerperal causes	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Congenital causes, etc.	10	9	19	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Senility ... ..	11	24	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	35
Suicide ... ..	7	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	3	4	1
Other Violence ... ..	19	10	1	—	—	1	—	1	1	—	3	5	9	8
Other defined causes	18	10	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	5	2	7	12
Ill-defined causes ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

### INFANT MORTALITY.

The number of deaths of Infants under one year of age was 33, compared with 22, 24 and 26 in the three previous years respectively.

The Infant Mortality Rate was 57 per 1,000 live births, compared with a rate of 37 in the previous year.

The accompanying table shows the causes of death and the ages at death of Infants under one year.

### INFANT MORTALITY—1939.

Net Deaths from stated causes at various ages under 1 year of age.

CAUSES OF DEATH.		Under 1 week	1-2 weeks	2-3 weeks	3-4 weeks	Total under 1 month	1 month and under 3 months	3 months and under 6 months	6 months and under 9 months	9 months and under 12 months	Total deaths under 1 year
Congenital Causes	No.	5	1	1	—	7	1	—	—	—	8
	Prematurity ...	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
	Icterus Neonatorum ...	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
	Atelectasis ...	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
	Debility ...	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Respiratory	Spina Bifida ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
	Congenital Hydrocephalus	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Infectious	Pneumonia ...	—	2	—	—	2	1	3	1	—	7
	Acute Infantile Asthma	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
	Accidental Suffocation...	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
Gastro-Intestinal	Whooping Cough ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
	Tuberculous Meningitis...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
	Septic Arthritis of hip ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Miscellaneous	Enteritis ...	—	—	—	1	1	1	—	—	—	2
	Birth Injury ...	4	—	—	—	4	—	—	—	—	4
	Chronic Nephritis ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
	Toxæmia ...	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
TOTALS		13	3	1	1	18	5	5	2	3	33



## **GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.**

### **Laboratory Facilities.**

Local facilities remain as stated in last year's Report.

The establishment of an Emergency Public Health Laboratory by the Medical Research Council at Wrekin College, Wellington, to assist Local Authorities in case of outbreaks of disease arising as a result of an influx of evacuees or military personnel has been of great assistance.

### **Ambulance Facilities.**

No alteration as regards normal civil requirements. Ambulances to the number of 16 are provided for use in Shrewsbury as part of the Air Raid Precaution Services.

### **Clinics and Treatment Centres.**

The only alteration or addition to the list given in last year's Report is the provision of a Birth Control Clinic by a Voluntary Committee. This clinic conducted by a woman doctor deals only with women, referred by doctors, in whose opinion, further pregnancy would be detrimental to their health.

Approval of the Ministry of Health and the Borough Council sanctioned the use of the Clinic rooms at the Health Centre.

This clinic is held fortnightly.

One of the terms of approval was that the Medical Officer of Health should be permitted at any time to visit the Clinic to examine record cards and to make sure that cases for which the Clinic was not intended were not attending.



## SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

### Water Supply.

The Water Engineer, Mr. W. A. Hewitt, has kindly supplied the following notes and a summary of bacteriological and chemical examinations carried out during the year in respect of Shelton and Conduit waters.

“ **River Severn Supply, Shelton.** It will be seen from the annexed table which summarizes the results of all examinations made at the Shelton laboratory, and from the separate table of examinations at the Birmingham University Laboratory, that the excellent results obtained since the inception of the Shelton Scheme in 1935, have been fully maintained. In view of the need for brevity at the present time no further comments are necessary.

**Conduit Water Supply.** The application of a very slight chlorine treatment of the conduit water was continued throughout the year. It is of interest to note that there is now a general tightening up of standards in the treatment of well supplies throughout the country, particularly in the case of wells which do not give uniformly coli-free results.”

### SHELTON WATER SUPPLY.

Summary of examinations at Shelton during 1939.

ITEM.	CRUDE RIVER WATER			AFTER STORAGE AND PRECIPITATION			AFTER FILTRATION			FILTERED AND CHLORINATED		
	Highest	Lowest	Average	Highest	Lowest	Average	Highest	Lowest	Average	Highest	Lowest	Average
Colony count of bacteria per c.c. at 37° C.	1,800	4	187	22	0	3	2	0	—	1	0	—
Colony count of bacteria per c.c. at 20° C.	45,000	92	4,897	827	1	68	940	0	44	161	0	3
B. Coli (present or absent)	present in .001 c.c.	present in 1 c.c.	present in .1 c.c.	present in 100 c.c.	absent in 1000 c.c.	absent in —	present in 500 c.c.	absent in 1000 c.c.	absent in —	absent in 1000 c.c.	absent in 1000 c.c.	absent in 1000 c.c.
Colour (Hazen)	88.2	13.8	31.5	34.4	2.9	7.1	12.2	2.9	5.4	12.1	2.9	5.2
Turbidity (p.p.m. silica)	312	1.7	32.7	62	0.7	7.6	3.9	.05	.19	3.9	.05	.19
pH (hydrogen-ion value)	9.1	6.7	7.6	7.8	6.3	6.9	7.8	6.1	6.9	7.8	6.5	7.1
Alkalinity (Ca Co <sub>3</sub> )	11.0	1.4	5.9	9.4	0.8	4.9	9.4	0.7	4.8	9.4	1.9	5.2
Chlorides (C.C.)	4.72	0.70	2.31	4.51	1.12	2.39	4.51	1.12	2.39	4.50	1.17	2.43
Free ammonia	.0148	trace	.0024	—	—	—	—	—	—	.0128	trace	.0030
Oxygen absorbed (3 hours at 37° C.)	.916	.120	.300	—	—	—	—	—	—	.160	.036	.062
Total hardness	13.3	2.4	8.0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Permanent Hardness	4.0	1.6	2.8	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Residual Chlorine (p.p.m.)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	20	.05	.12

Samples of Shelton and Conduit water were sent to the Birmingham University Laboratories for bacteriological examination.

The results are set out in the following tables.

#### Shelton Water.

Source of Sample.	Date.	Colony Count of Bacteria per c.c. at		Presumptive Coli-Aerogenes Test.	Remarks.
		37 °C.	20 °C.		
Tap at Health Centre.	3.4.39	1	1	Absent from 100 c.c.	Streptococci are absent from 50 c.c. and the Spores of B. Welchii from 100 c.c.
Ditto	19.6.39	0	0	Ditto	Ditto
Ditto	18.9.39	1	15	Ditto	Ditto
Ditto	23.12.39	0	1	Ditto	Ditto

#### Conduit Water.

Source of Sample.	Date.	Colony Count of Bacteria per c.c. at		Presumptive Coli-Aerogenes Test.	Remarks.
		37 °C.	20 °C.		
Conduit Pillar, Murivance.	3.4.39	1	6	Absent from 100 c.c.	Streptococci absent from 50 c.c. and the Spores of B. Welchii from 100 c.c.
Ditto	19.6.39	0	0	Ditto	Ditto
Ditto	18.9.39	2	1	Ditto	Ditto
Ditto	23.12.39	4	4	Ditto	Ditto

#### Drainage and Sewerage and Closet Accommodation.

Three closets were converted from the conservancy to the water carriage system.

The number of new dwelling houses approved with drainage not connected to the sewerage system was 2.

## SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

Details of the varied work carried out by the Sanitary Inspection Staff, which was depleted after the outbreak of war, are given in the following statistics.

### Inspection Work.

Inspection (including re-inspection) of dwelling houses	4857
Visits in connection with Overcrowding	855
„ „ „ „ Infectious Disease	169
„ „ „ „ Re-housing operations	249
„ „ „ „ verminous premises (including rats and mice)	76
Drains Inspected	294
Factories Inspected	70
Workshops „	45
Workplaces „	6
Inspections of Milkshops and Dairies	45
„ „ Cowsheds and Dairy Farms	28
Street work in connection with Milk and Dairies Acts and Orders	34
Inspection of Common Lodging Houses	42
„ „ Offensive Trade Premises	23
„ „ Premises used for the preparation and sale of food	68
Visits for Food inspection	12
Inspection of Pigstyes and premises used for keeping animals	68
„ „ watercourses, ditches	23
„ in connection with accumulations of manure and other refuse	102
„ „ „ „ Cesspools, Sewers and Urinals	77
„ of Elementary Schools (Sanitary Survey)	23
„ „ Tents, Vans, Sheds, etc.	129
„ and visits in connection with Shops Acts	119
„ of offices	15
„ „ yards, courts and passages	32

Observations and visits in connection with Smoke Abatement	...	...	...	...	...	...	47
Other visits unclassified, interviews, no access, miscellaneous, general purpose visits	...	...					2100
						Total	9608

As a result of these Inspections the following administrative action was taken.

(1) Statutory Notices served	Nil affecting	Nil premises.
(2) Informal Notices served	157 „	215 „
(3) Letters sent	37 „	57 „
(4) Verbal suggestions	46 „	58 „
	_____	_____
Total	240 notices.	330 premises.
	_____	_____

There were 24 notices outstanding at the end of the year, affecting 24 premises.

(5) Prosecutions ... Nil.

The number of complaints received and dealt with during the year was 315.

#### **Details of Sanitary Improvements effected as a result of Inspections made and Notices issued.**

##### **Dwellinghouses.** (Number affected 270).

Roofs repaired and made weatherproof	...	...	...	71
Rainwater gutters repaired or renewed	...	...		60
„ downspouts „ „ „	...	...		36
External walls repaired	...	...	...	67
Chimney stacks repaired	...	...	...	31

Wall plaster	„	...	...	...	...	176
Ceiling	„	„	...	...	...	157
Dirty walls cleansed	...	...	...	...	...	14
„ ceilings	„	...	...	...	...	14
Floors repaired	...	...	...	...	...	146
Hearths repaired or made good	...	...	...	...	...	14
Fire ranges and fire grates repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	102
Windows repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	143
Doors repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	94
Stairs repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	36
Handrails provided to staircases	...	...	...	...	...	27
Inadequate lighting improved	...	...	...	...	...	73
„ ventilation	„	...	...	...	...	35
Ventilated foodstores provided	...	...	...	...	...	33
Deficient water supply remedied	...	...	...	...	...	20
Dampness remedied	...	...	...	...	...	38
Sinks renewed or provided	...	...	...	...	...	33
Sink waste pipes repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	29
Washing accommodation provided or repaired	...	...	...	...	...	33
Paving of yards repaired	...	...	...	...	...	57
Coal stores provided	...	...	...	...	...	20
Sculleries provided	...	...	...	...	...	6
Separate yards constructed	...	...	...	...	...	15
Back-to-back houses converted to through houses	...	...	...	...	...	8

**Water Closets.** (Number affected 48).

Roofs repaired	...	...	...	...	...	7
Walls	„	...	...	...	...	8
Floors	„	...	...	...	...	6
Basins renewed	...	...	...	...	...	11
Connections repaired	...	...	...	...	...	4
Flushing apparatus repaired	...	...	...	...	...	27
Doors repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	4
Seats	„	„	„	...	...	10
Proper water supply provided	...	...	...	...	...	4
Deficient light or ventilation remedied	...	...	...	...	...	2

Additional water closets provided	...	...	...	33
" " " " in lieu of pails	...			3

### Drainage.

New drains constructed	...	...	...	62
Existing drains reconstructed	...	...	...	16
Defective drains repaired	...	...	...	24
Drains disconnected from sewer	...	...	...	8
Inspection chambers provided	...	...	...	24
Drains ventilated	...	...	...	13
Choked drains cleansed	...	...	...	51
Self-cleansing gulleys provided	...	...	...	12
Baths installed	...	...	...	7
Wash basins installed	...	...	...	4

### Storage of Refuse.

Accumulations of refuse removed	...	...	...	5
Defective dustbins renewed	...	...	...	23
Dustbins provided on absence of proper refuse receptacles	...	...	...	15
Accumulations of manure removed or controlled	...			4

### Miscellaneous.

Conditions remedied where animals were improperly kept	...	...	...	...	...	3
Improvement of Sanitary condition of Milkshops, Dairies and Cowsheds	...	...	...			2
Improvement of Sanitary condition of Offensive Trade premises	...	...	...	...	...	1
Improvement of Sanitary condition of Food Premises						4
Other matters remedied	...	...	...	...		53



# **SANITARY INSPECTION OF FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS and WORKPLACES.**

## **1. Factories, Workshops and Workplaces, etc.**

Premises.	Number of		
	Inspections.	Written Notices.	Prosecutions.
FACTORIES (including Factory Laundries)	70	2	Nil.
WORKSHOPS (including Workshop Laundries)	45	2	Nil.
WORKPLACES	6	—	Nil.
Total	121	4	Nil.

## **2. Defects found in Factories, Workshops and Workplaces.**

PARTICULARS.	Found.	Remedied.	Referred to H.M. Inspector.	Number of Prosecutions
Nuisances under the Public Health Acts :—				
Want of Cleanliness ... ..	2	2	—	—
Want of Ventilation ... ..	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding ... ..	—	—	—	—
Want of Drainage of floors ... ..	—	—	—	—
Other Nuisances ... ..	1	1	—	—
Sanitary Accommodation {	insufficient ...	1	1	—
	unsuitable or defective	3	3	—
	not separate for sexes ...	—	—	—
Offences under the Factory and Workshop Act :—				
Illegal occupation of underground Bake-house (Sec. 101) ... ..	—	—	—	—
Breach of Special Sanitary requirements for Bakehouses (Secs. 97—100) ...	—	—	—	—
Other Offences ... ..	—	—	—	—
Total ...	7	7	—	—



### 3. Home Work.

#### OUTWORKERS' LISTS, Sec. 107.

Nature of Work.	Lists. (Sent twice a year).	Outworkers.	
		Contrac- tors.	Work- men.
Wearing apparel :—			
(1) Making ... ..	3	1	3
(2) Cleaning and washing ...	—	—	—
Nets other than wire nets ...	—	—	—
Furniture and upholstery ...	1	—	1
Total ...	4	1	4

There were no infringements of the Acts.

#### 4. The Registered Workshops in the District are as follows :—

Bakehouses ... ..	23	Motor and Cycle Repairs	40
Boot repairs ... ..	20	Plumbers ... ..	8
Painters ... ..	11	Blacksmiths ... ..	9
Cabinet Makers, Carpen- ters, Builders ... ..	29	Tailors ... ..	14
Dressmakers ... ..	16	Sundry Trades ... ..	85

### 5. Other Matters.

Class.	Number.
Matters Notified to H.M. Inspector of Factories ...	nil.
Failure to fix Abstract of the Factory and Workshop Act (Sec. 133) ... ..	nil.
Action taken in matters referred by H.M. In- spector as remediable under the Public Health Acts, but not under the Factory and Workshop Acts (Sec.5)	Notified by H.M. Inspec- tor ... .. 2
	Reports (of action taken) sent to H.M. Inspector 3
Underground Bakehouses (Sec. 101) :—	
Certificates granted during the year ... ..	nil.
In use at the end of the year ... ..	nil.

## PREMISES AND OCCUPATIONS CONTROLLED BY BYE LAWS OR REGULATIONS.

### Common Lodging Houses.

There are 2 Common Lodging Houses and a Municipal Hostel for Men.

Owing to the very unsatisfactory and unhygienic condition of the two Common Lodging Houses, registration was refused by the Council under Section 236 of the Public Health Act 1936. Arrangements were in hand for the closing down of these premises by the end of August, but the outbreak of war prevented such action.

### Offensive Trades.

The number and type of offensive trades carried on in the Borough are as follows :

Fried Fish Shops	...	20	Fellmongers	...	...	2
Rag and Bone Dealers		3	Tanners	...	...	2
Tripe Boilers and Gut			Curriers and Leather			
Scrapers	...	...	Dressers	...	...	1
Soap Boiler	...	...				
		1				

### Cowkeepers and Milksellers.

The number of Cowkeepers and Milk retailers registered in the Borough is 120.

Premises at which cows are kept, milk being sold						
wholesale	...	...	...	...	...	14
Premises at which cows are kept and from which						
milk is retailed	...	...	...	...	...	27
Premises from which milk is retailed	...	...	...	...	...	*43
Milk retailers whose premises are outside the						
Borough and retail in the Borough	...	...	...	...	...	36

\*This number includes 16 who are registered to sell bottled milk only.

Samples of milk were taken by the Sanitary Inspectors for the following purposes.

Examination for Tubercle Bacilli	...	14 samples.
Pasteurised Milk for Bacteriological count	11	„

### **SHOPS ACTS.**

The Chief Sanitary Inspector is also designated as Shops Act Inspector.

His work in connection with Shops and Offices had to be curtailed owing to pressure of housing work during the year.

The total number of visits made was 119.

Under Section 10 of the Shops Act 1934 (sanitary arrangements in shops) notices were issued relating to 12 contraventions and these were all subsequently remedied, the number of visits for this purpose being 30.

### **Offices.**

Fifteen inspections were made and the necessary improvements were carried out as a result of these inspections.

### **Schools.**

The annual sanitary survey of schools was carried out during the Whitsuntide holidays.

### **SMOKE ABATEMENT.**

Visits or observations in connection with smoke abatement numbered 47 during the year.

## **CAMPING SITES.**

Visits and inspections to the number of 129 were made for the general control and supervision of caravan and similar temporary encampments.

## **SWIMMING BATHS.**

Samples of water from the Public Baths were taken monthly from May to September.

The results were excellent except for the sample taken in August, in which the Bacteriologist stated "This water is undesirably contaminated for a safe swimming bath water. The streptococci are of a type that indicate their human origin and the B. Coli are faecal contaminants from the bodies of bathers."

There was a heavy load of bathers about this period and it was concluded, after enquiry, that the chlorination plant was not being effectively operated.

## **HOUSING.**

### **Building Progress during 1939.**

1. Houses erected by Local Authority ...	...	66
2. Houses erected by Private Enterprise ...	...	283

The housing site at Heath Gates on which houses were erected in connection with the Slum Clearance programme and abatement of overcrowding was completed and all houses let by the end of May.

On this housing site houses of 5 and 6 bedrooms were provided, as well as 4, 3 and 2 bedroomed houses.

In this way some of the largest overcrowded families, as well as aged couples or single persons displaced from unfit houses, were suitably re-housed.

In view of the extension of the programmes for Slum Clearance and the abatement of overcrowding adopted by the Council at the beginning of the year, further sites were acquired and negotiations for compulsory purchase were proceeding to cater not only for re-housing families, but for special sites and types of houses for aged or single persons or couples without a family.

The outbreak of war closed down all housing activities and everything is now in abeyance.

The Council adopted and put into force during the year a comprehensive rent rebate scheme to replace the former differential rents scheme.

Among the housing statistics given at the end of this section of the Report it will be seen that 50 houses were demolished during the year and that 137 cases of overcrowding were relieved.

### **Report of the Housing Inspector.**

The Housing Inspector appointed to supervise all Council houses resigned to take another post elsewhere on September 30th.

It was decided owing to the war not to replace him, but that his work should be undertaken by the Chief Sanitary Inspector whose duties in connection with Slum Clearance work have been curtailed.

The following is a summary of the work carried out during the year :—

Total number of visits and inspections as detailed below      2609

This number is made up as follows :—

Visits investigating complaints of disrepair, supervising repairs and inspecting completed work	...	...	972
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**House Inspections.**

Routine inspections of occupied Corporation houses (other than detailed below) ... ..	36
Inspections and visits re the transfer of families to larger type houses or different Estates ... ..	83
Inspection of houses re the supply of materials for internal decoration ... ..	249
Inspection of vacated Corporation houses ... ..	79
Inspections and visits in respect of Application for a Corporation house ... ..	68
Re-inspections and visits in connection with the super- vision of decorations and repairs (vacant houses)	221

**Verminous Houses.**

Inspection of houses on complaint of vermin infestation and visits for fumigation ... ..	114
Inspection of houses on complaint of rats ... ..	21
Inspection of houses on complaint of cockroaches and crickets ... ..	12

**Contravention of Conditions of Letting.**

Inspection of houses re sub-letting of premises ...	10
Visits in connection with the keeping of pigeons ...	48
„ „ „ „ „ „ „ „ poultry ...	11
„ re condition of gardens ... ..	44
„ „ the erection of new/or demolition of old sheds	96
„ „ defective or choked drains ... ..	136
„ in respect of re-housing into Council houses ...	79
„ re infectious disease ... ..	30
„ in connection with the Housing Act 1936 (Over- crowding) ... ..	18
Miscellaneous visits ... ..	282
<hr/>	
Total	2609
<hr/>	

### Municipal Hostel for Men.

Mr. E. A. Andrews (Superintendent) supplies the following figures relating to the admissions to Derfald House Hostel for the year 1939, with those of 1938 for comparison.

	1939	1938
Number of Beds ... ..	39	38
Weekly lodgers (6/-) ... ..	858	936
Daily „ (1/-) ... ..	3,454	4,993
Numbers sleeping ... ..	9,478	11,545
Daily average ... ..	26	31
Highest number on any day ... ..	39	38
Lowest „ „ „ „ ... ..	17	19
Requested to leave for breach of rules ... ..	4	12
Cases of Infectious disease ... ..	Nil	Nil

The reduction in numbers during 1939 may partly be attributed to the war and partly to the fact that in 1938 the numbers were swollen by men temporarily engaged in building work and the construction of an aerodrome some miles outside the town.

### Housing Statistics.

#### 1.—Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the year.

(1) (a)	Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) ... ..	354
(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose ... ..	4857
(2) (a)	Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 ... ..	19
(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose ... ..	50



(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	... ..	12
(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	... ..	342

**2.—Remedy of defects during the year without Service of formal Notices :—**

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	... ..	318
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**3.—Action under Statutory Powers during the year :—**

**A.—Proceedings under sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 :**

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	... ..	Nil
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :—		
(a) By owners	... ..	Nil
(b) By local authority in default of owners	... ..	Nil

**B.—Proceedings under Public Health Acts :**

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	... ..	Nil
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—		
(a) By owners	... ..	Nil
(b) By local authority in default of owners	... ..	Nil



C.—Proceedings under sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	... ..	56
(2) Number of houses in respect of which an undertaking was accepted under subsection (3) of Section 11 of the Housing Act, 1936	...	15
(3) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	... ..	50

D.—Proceedings under section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 :

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	... ..	1
(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	... ..	Nil

4.—Housing Act, 1936, Part IV.—Overcrowding.

(a) (i) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year	... ..	114
(ii) Number of families dwelling therein	...	118
(iii) Number of persons dwelling therein	...	751
(b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	... ..	7
(c) (i) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	... ..	137
(ii) Number of persons concerned in such cases	... ..	993
(d) Particulars of any cases in which dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding	... ..	Nil

## INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

As a result of application by the Council under Section 64 of the Food and Drugs Act 1938, the Minister of Health approved of the Borough of Shrewsbury remaining as a Food and Drug Authority.

### Milk Supply.

The work in connection with the milk supply of the town may be summarised as follows :—

#### Inspection of Cowsheds, Dairies and Milkshops.

The Sanitary Inspectors made 107 visits or inspections as follows :—

Inspection of Milkshops and Dairies	...	...	45
„ „ Cowsheds and Dairy Farms	...	...	28
Street work in connection with Milk and Dairies			
Acts or Orders	...	...	34

Verbal warnings or advice were given in 17 cases, resulting in remedy of the condition to which attention had been drawn.

Improvement in the sanitary condition of Milkshops, Dairies and Cowsheds was effected in 2 cases.

### Milk Sampling.

Samples of milk were taken for the purpose of (a) Chemical analysis, (b) Examination for Tubercle bacilli, (c) Bacteriological examination in the case of Designated milks ; the results being set out under their respective headings.

### Chemical Analysis.

The Sampling Officer took 50 samples of milk during the year, the results being set out in the following table.

## Food and Drugs Acts—Analyses of Milk Samples.

Number of samples.		Result of Analysis.	Remarks on samples returned as "Not genuine."
Formal.	Informal.		
		Formal { 37 genuine. 11 not genuine.	1. Deficient of 5% fat. No action taken. 2. Contained 7.7% of added water. Freezing point (Hortvet) 0.480° C. Vendor prosecuted and fined £1 and £1/4/0 special costs. 3. Freezing point (Hortvet) 0.540° C. "Appeal to Cow" of No. 2. This sample would require the addition of 4.3% of water to reduce it to the quality of No. 2. 4. Deficient of 20% of fat. "Appeal to Cow" taken and found below standard for fat. Vendor cautioned to improve quality. 5. Deficient of 6.7% of fat. "Appeal to Cow" taken and found genuine. Vendor cautioned. 6. Solids not fat 8.30%. Freezing point (Hortvet) 0.560° C. No evidence of added water. 7. Deficient of 20% of fat. Delivery samples taken. 8. Solids not fat 8.44%. Freezing point (Hortvet) 0.552° C. Delivery sample of No. 7. 9. Deficient of 28% of fat and 0.30% below standard for solids not fat. Freezing point (Hortvet) 0.542° C. Delivery sample of No. 7. 10. Deficient of 13% of fat. Delivery sample taken and found genuine. Vendor prosecuted and fined £1 plus 10/6 costs. 11. Solids not fat 8.20%. Freezing point (Hortvet) 0.530° C. No evidence of added water.
48	2	Informal { 1 genuine. 1 not genuine.	1. "Appeal to Cow" of No. 2 above. Solids not fat 7.87%. Showed no evidence of added water. Freezing point (Hortvet) 0.550° C.

### **Examination for Tubercle Bacilli.**

Samples of milk are taken by Sanitary Inspectors from milksellers during their delivery rounds, and these samples are submitted to Birmingham University for examination for Tubercle Bacilli.

Of the 14 samples submitted, all were negative.

### **Bacteriological Examination of Designated Milks.**

Pasteurised Milk under licence is supplied to elementary school children under the Milk in Schools scheme of the Milk Marketing Board.

Ten samples of this Pasteurised Milk were sent for examination during the year. Five of the samples were reported as giving the Presumptive Coliform test in 1/10th c.c., otherwise the remaining samples were satisfactory.

### **Milk (Special Designations) Order 1936.**

The only designated milk produced in the Borough is Accredited Milk and there are 9 licenced producers of this graded milk.

Tuberculin tested and Pasteurised milks are also retailed in the town, but are produced outside the Borough boundaries.

One licence to retail Pasteurised Milk was renewed and a licence was granted to bottle accredited milk in one case.

### **Public Health (Condensed Milk) Regulations 1923 and 1927.**

Two samples of Condensed milk were taken for analysis. Both samples were genuine.

### **Meat.**

No private slaughter houses are now in action in the town.

**Public Abattoir.**

The work carried on at the Public Abattoir conducted by the whole time Superintendent, who is a qualified Meat Inspector and inspects all slaughtered animals, is set out in the accompanying tables.

**Public Abattoir.****CARCASES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED.**

	Cattle exclud- ing Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed ... ..	5072	820	1632	24629	10346
Number inspected ... ..	5072	820	1632	24629	10346
<b>All Diseases except Tuberculosis :</b>					
Whole carcasses condemned...	13	11	8	29	35
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned...	35	107	1	247	158
Percentage of the number in- spected affected with dis- ease other than tuberculosis	0.94	14.39	0.55	1.12	1.86
<b>Tuberculosis only :</b>					
Whole carcasses condemned...	8	19	1	—	18
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ...	15	81	—	—	327
Percentage of the number in- spected affected with tuber- culosis ... ..	0.45	12.20	0.06	—	3.33

Disease and unsound conditions found in the animals dealt with, caused the detention and surrender for destruction of a total weight in carcasses and offal of 25 tons, 18 cwts., details of which are given in the following table.

			Carcasses.	Offal.	Total in lbs.
Beef	...	...	lbs. 25203	13534	38737
Veal	...	...	„ 611	69	680
Mutton and Lamb	...	...	„ 1559	862	2421
Pork	...	...	„ 12770	3408	16178

**Food and Drugs (Adulteration) Act 1928, Food and Drugs Act 1938, and Public Health (Preservatives, etc., in Food) Regulations 1925 to 1939.**

The following 65 samples of Foods and Drugs were taken. All were reported on as genuine and free from foreign ingredients.

Numbers indicate number of samples. F = Formal sample, Inf. = Informal sample.

Self-raising Flour (3 F); Condensed Milk (2 Inf); Sausages (5 F, 1 Inf); Lard (5 F); Brawn (2 F); Butter (5 F); Tapioca (5 F); Malt Vinegar (5 F); Cheese (5 F); Cream (1 F, 5 Inf); Strawberry Flan (1 Inf); Sausage Rolls (1 Inf); Coffee (3 F); Margarine (1 F); Dripping (1 F); Mincemeat (4 Inf);

Mercury Ointment (1 Inf); Aspirin (1 Inf); Bicarbonate of Soda (1 Inf); Boric Acid Powder (1 Inf); Olive Oil (1 F); Glycerine (1 F); Camphorated Oil (1 F, 1 Inf); Seidlitz powder (1 Inf); Iodine (1 Inf).

The following foodstuffs other than meat, being unfit for human consumption were voluntarily surrendered for destruction.

Fish	...	...	...	1329 lbs.
Cheese	...	...	...	38 lbs.
Cooked foods	...	...	...	211 lbs.

## PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

There was a reduction in the incidence of Scarlet Fever compared with the previous year.

Of the 106 notified cases, 88 were removed to the Isolation Hospital.

There were no deaths.

There were 43 cases of Diphtheria, compared with 45 in the previous year. All 43 cases were removed to the Isolation Hospital and there were 6 deaths.

At the beginning of the year there was a localised outbreak of a virulent form of Diphtheria in the Ditherington area resulting in 20 cases and 5 deaths.

It was this sudden outbreak with calamitous results which induced many parents to repair their previous neglect and to seek protection for their children by immunisation.

The number of children immunised in 1939 compared with previous years is an illustration of how apathy is overcome when tragedy produces alertness or alarm.

### Number of Children Immunised.

1936	...	...	162
1937	...	...	177
1938	...	...	136
1939	...	...	1059

Immunisation consists of 3 injections of T.A.M.

Three months or so subsequently children are Schick-tested by the Health Department to ascertain whether immunity has been obtained.

During the year, for the first time, preliminary Schick testing was carried out, but only in the case of children between the ages of 12 and 14 years, to which group the scheme was extended by a resolution of the Council. Previously the scheme embraced children from the age of 1 year to 12 years.

The work carried out in connection with Diphtheria Immunisation is set out in the following table.



	Pre-Schick Tests		Immunisations	Post Schick Tests	
	Positive	Negative		Positive	Negative
Pre-School Children	—	—	347	8	229
School Children	119	48	712	28	463

Of those cases immunised and subsequently Schick tested 95% were shown to be protected.

Two children who had been immunised in previous years contracted mild Diphtheria, but made a rapid recovery.

Of other notifiable infectious diseases, there was one case each of Acute Poliomyelitis and Encephalitis Lethargica.

There were no notified cases of Enteric Fever, Cerebro-Spinal Fever, Smallpox, Malaria or Dysentery.

Monthly Incidence of Infectious Diseases Notified 1939.  
(Not including Tuberculosis).

Month.	Erysipelas.	Ophthalmia Neonatorum.	Pneumonia.		Puerperal Pyrexia.	Scarlet Fever.	Diphtheria.	Acute Poliomyelitis.	Encephalitis Lethargica	Measles.	Whooping Cough.
			Prim-ary.	Influenzal.							
Jan. ...	—	—	1	2	—	8	7	—	—	—	—
Feb. ...	3	—	2	3	—	3	8	—	—	—	—
March	1	—	3	—	—	8	3	—	—	—	—
April	—	2	1	—	—	5	3	—	—	—	—
May ...	—	—	5	1	1	3	—	—	—	—	—
June ...	2	3	—	—	3	6	—	—	—	—	—
July ...	—	1	1	—	—	9	1	1	—	—	—
Aug. ...	—	—	1	—	1	2	—	—	—	—	—
Sept. ...	—	—	1	—	1	6	—	—	1	—	—
Oct. ...	—	1	2	—	2	24	10	—	—	—	—
Nov. ...	2	2	—	—	1	19	6	—	—	1	1
Dec. ...	1	1	2	—	1	13	5	—	—	5	—
Totals	9	10	19	6	10	106	43	1	1	6	1



## NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS) DURING THE YEAR 1939.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.	NUMBER OF CASES NOTIFIED.																	Number of Deaths.	Total Cases removed to Hospital
	At Ages—Years.																		
	At all Ages.	Under 1	1 to 2	2 to 3	3 to 4	4 to 5	5 to 10	10 to 15	15 to 20	20 to 35	35 to 45	45 to 65	65 to upwards.						
Small-pox ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
Diphtheria...	43	...	2	1	2	2	17	14	...	4	1	...	...	...	...	...	6	43	
Erysipelas ...	9	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	2	4	2	...	...	...	1	4	
Scarlet Fever ...	106	...	1	6	5	10	62	9	6	5	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	84	
Typhus Fever ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
Enteric Fever ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	10	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	10	10	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	9	
Poliomyelitis ...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	
Pneumonia, Acute Primary	19	1	1	1	1	...	...	2	1	6	2	4	...	...	...	3	...	...	
Do. Acute Influenzal	6	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	...	3	...	...	...	...	...	
Cerebro-Spinal Fever ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
Encephalitis Lethargica	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	
Polio-Encephalitis ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
Malaria ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
Dysentery ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
Measles ...	6	...	...	...	...	...	4	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
Whooping Cough ...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	
Totals	212	11	4	8	8	12	84	29	7	23	13	8	5	...	...	...	11	143	

## MONKMOOR ISOLATION HOSPITAL.

By the conversion of the Power house adjoining the cubicle block into a modern operating theatre during the year, a small ward which was formerly reserved as an operating theatre became available for ordinary cases.

The bed accommodation at the Hospital was thus increased by 3 beds, giving a total of 54 beds available.

As a war measure and to cater for an expected increase in the number of cases of infectious diseases as a result of evacuees and military establishments in the area served by the Hospital, the Salop County Council among other arrangements, requested the Joint Hospital Board to administer 46 additional beds for the reception of cases.

The Ministry of Health approved the Scheme, which involved the provision of 6 further beds at Monkmoor Isolation Hospital, 24 beds at Monkmoor Hall an empty building belonging to the Corporation of Shrewsbury, which was adapted and equipped at the expense of the Ministry of Health, and the utilisation of 16 beds at the Corporation of Shrewsbury's Smallpox Hospital in Underdale Road at which Hospital gas and electric light services were installed at the expense of the Ministry of Health.

Towards the end of the year the beds at the main Hospital were occupied for a short period to the limit of accommodation, but it was not found necessary to open up either of its subsidiary hospitals and so far they have not been used.

### **Cases admitted.**

Patients are admitted from the area of the Joint Hospital Board (Borough of Shrewsbury and Atcham Rural District) and from the Counties of Salop, Montgomery and Radnor.

The various military units in Shrewsbury or Shropshire also seek admission for their cases.

The total number of cases admitted during the year was 347, compared with 418 in the previous year.

The respective number of admissions from the under-mentioned areas was as follows :—

Borough of Shrewsbury	...	...	141 cases.
Atcham Rural District	...	...	20 „
County of Salop	...	...	122 „
County of Montgomery	...	...	51 „
County of Radnor	...	...	12 „
County of Flint	...	...	1 case.

The diseases for which patients were admitted and the respective number of patients for each disease may be summarised as follows:—

*Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	200 cases.
*Diphtheria	...	...	...	118 „
Diphtheria Carriers	...	...	...	2 „
Measles	...	...	...	2 „
German Measles	...	...	...	10 „
Erysipelas	...	...	...	9 „
*Enteric Fever	...	...	...	2 „
Cerebro-spinal Fever	...	...	...	4 „

\*See subsequent heading “Revised Diagnosis.”

The areas from which patients were sent together with the disease for which they were admitted are given in the following table.

LOCALITY.	Scarlet Fever	Diphtheria	Diphtheria Carriers	Measles	German Measles	Erysip- elas	Enteri- Fever	Cerebro Spinal Fever
SHREWSBURY	88	47	1	—	—	5	—	—
Atcham Rural District	11	6	—	—	—	—	2	1
County of Salop	78	26	1	2	10	3	—	2
County of Montgomery	18	31	—	—	—	1	—	1
County of Radnor	4	8	—	—	—	—	—	—
County of Flint	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	200	118	2	2	10	9	2	4

### Revised Diagnosis.

Of the 347 patients admitted, 35 or 10% after due observation were found to be suffering from conditions other than those for which admitted.

Sixteen cases sent in as Scarlet Fever were re-diagnosed as Chickenpox (2 cases), No disease (2 cases), Influenza, Simple erythema, Skin sepsis (2 cases), Mastoiditis, Quinsy, Stomatitis, Drug rash, Food rash, Tonsillitis, Puerperal sepsis, Sulphonamide poisoning.

Eighteen cases sent in as Diphtheria were re-diagnosed as Tonsillitis (10 cases), Vincent's Angina (3 cases), Lobar Pneumonia, Broncho-pneumonia, Quinsy, Laryngitis, Pharyngitis.

One case sent in as Enteric Fever was re-diagnosed as Acute Polio-encephalitis.

### Treatment.

**Scarlet Fever.** There were no deaths among the 184 definite cases of Scarlet Fever.

Complications occurred in 16 cases and were as follows :— Otorrhoea (4 cases), Cervical Adenitis (4 cases), Endocarditis (4 cases), Quinsy, Rhinorrhoea (3 cases).

**Diphtheria.** Of the 100 clinical cases of Diphtheria 9 died.

Complications directly due to the Diphtheria toxin occurred in 29 cases as paralysis or paresis :— Palatal (9 cases), Pharyngeal (4 cases), Lower limb (3 cases), Cardiac (11 cases), Intercostal (1 case), Ciliary (1 case).

**Cerebro-Spinal Fever.** Of the 4 cases treated one died but the diagnosis was doubtful the patient having been admitted with a head injury as a result of a fall.

The other cases, two of whom were soldiers, were all severe cases, but responded to the modern method of treatment with the drug M and B 693. No serum was administered.

### **Surgical Operations.**

The following operations were performed by the visiting Ear, Nose and Throat Specialist or other surgeons.

Tracheotomy	...	...	...	2 cases.
Abscess of leg	...	...	...	1 case.

### **Return Cases and Cross Infection.**

There was 1 "return case" in respect of Scarlet Fever giving a return case rate of 0.5% compared with 2.3, 1.9 and 6.25 in the previous years respectively.

There was only 1 case of cross infection among the 347 patients admitted. A diphtheria patient developed Scarlet Fever.

### **Health of Staff.**

The health of the Nursing and domestic staff was excellent throughout a heavy year's work.

The following preventive measures were carried out during the year.

Schick test	...	...	...	...	13 cases.
Diphtheria Immunisation	...	...	...	...	8 „
Dick test	...	...	...	...	13 „
Scarlet Fever Immunisation	...	...	...	...	3 „
Anti Typhoid-Paratyphoid Inoculation	...	...	...	...	1 case.

**Deaths.**

There were 12 deaths among the 347 patients, 9 from Diphtheria, 1 from Erysipelas, 1 from Cerebro-Spinal Fever and 1 from Acute Polio-encephalitis.

**TUBERCULOSIS.**

The Salop County Council administer the Tuberculosis service, but close co-operation is maintained chiefly in connection with disinfection of rooms occupied by infectious patients or in re-housing those whose housing conditions are unsatisfactory.

**Tuberculosis.**

Age Periods.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0 to 1 ... ..	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
1—5 ... ..	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—
5—15 ... ..	1	—	3	2	—	—	1	1
15—25 ... ..	1	2	1	4	1	1	2	—
25—35 ... ..	4	1	1	—	—	3	1	—
35—45 ... ..	2	1	—	1	4	3	—	—
45—55 ... ..	1	1	—	—	1	1	—	—
55—65 ... ..	2	1	—	—	1	2	—	—
65 and upwards ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals ...	11	6	6	8	7	10	5	2

Of the 24 deaths from Tuberculosis 6, or 25% were not notified before death.

The Phthisis (Respiratory or Pulmonary Tuberculosis) death rate for the year was 0.42 per 1,000 population compared with 0.13 in the previous year.

**Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925.**

It was not found necessary to take any action under the above Regulations.

**Public Health Act, 1925, Section 62.**

No cause for action.

**NON-NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES.**

Among elementary school children there were reported 6 cases of Measles, 92 cases of Whooping Cough, 26 cases of Chickenpox and 20 cases of Mumps.

In the town as a whole it may be counted as a very light year as regards non-notifiable infectious diseases.

**BACTERIOLOGICAL WORK.**

The following work was carried out during the year in the Laboratory at the Health Centre.

		Number.	Positive.	Negative.
Swabs for Diphtheria From Bacilli	Isolation Hospital	1523	151	1372
	Schools cases and contacts	384	37	347
	Local Doctors	163	12	151
Swabs for Vincent's Angina organisms		7	3	4

The undermentioned specimens from the Borough and paid for under the County Council Scheme were sent to the University of Birmingham for examination.

				Positive.	Negative.
Swabs for Diphtheria Bacilli	...	...	—	9	
Sputum for Tubercle Bacillus	...	...	6	39	
Widal Test	...	...	1	13	
Cerebro-spinal fluid	...	...	—	1	
Faeces (Typhoid)	...	...	—	2	
Swabs for Beta Haemolytic Streptococci	...	...	1	1	



### DISINFECTION AND DISINFESTATION.

A summary of the work carried out by the Sanitary Inspectors in connection with infectious disease, disinfection and disinfestation work is as follows :—

Visits made in connection with Infectious disease					...	169
Disinfection	{	Tuberculosis	...	...	...	17
carried out		Scarlet fever	...	...	...	10
after		Diphtheria	...	...	...	1
Council houses treated for Bug Infestation					...	20
Other	„	„	„	„	„	under
Inspectors' supervision					...	15
Disinfectant supplied for Infectious disease purposes						59

The methods used and described in the Report for 1936 for eradication of bugs were continued.

## MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

## Visits of Health Visitors.

	Ante-Natal Visits	Under 1 year		1-5 Years Visits	Infant Death Enquiries	Still-birth Enquiries	Infant Life Protection Visits	Totals
		First Visits	Return Visits.					
January ...	60	40	140	269	1	2	4	516
February ...	51	29	112	286	1	—	4	483
March ...	81	49	248	479	4	3	6	870
April ...	58	35	112	248	3	1	8	465
May ...	47	31	147	282	1	1	7	516
June ...	61	66	155	399	2	1	7	691
July ...	60	33	109	293	—	1	3	499
August ...	32	34	101	179	1	1	5	353
September	66	70	216	549	1	3	4	909
October ...	77	43	165	400	1	1	3	690
November	77	27	141	429	2	2	4	682
December...	40	49	124	284	2	2	—	501
Total ...	710	506	1770	4097	19	18	55	7175

## WELFARE CENTRES.

		Under 1 year		1—5 years		Expectant Mothers.	
		Health Centre	White House	Health Centre	White House	Health Centre	White House
New Cases	{ Borough ...	351		129		138	
	{ County ...	11		13		—	
Total Attendances of Old and New Cases ... ..		2949	2178	2790	3358	112	321
		5127		6148		433	

The results of a full year's working of the extended Maternity and Child Welfare Scheme are partly displayed by the record number of attendances at Welfare Centres and Ante-Natal Clinics.

Whereas in 1929 the total attendances were 3,737, in 1939 they were 11,708 or three times as many.

The attendances were 1686 more than in the previous year which was a record year.

The amount of work done at each session may be gauged from the following average numbers.

	Health Centre.	White House.
Average attendance of Mothers each afternoon	43	43
„ „ „ Children „ „	55	54
„ number of children medically examined	30	32

(The above average numbers include mothers and children resident outside the Borough).

Other activities may be summarised as follows :—

Number of Mothers who received Dental treatment	47
„ „ Children „ „ „ „	40
„ „ Dentures supplied to expectant or nursing mothers ... ..	13
„ „ Children referred to Eye, Ear and Throat Hospital ... ..	21
„ „ Children referred to Cripple Care Centre	20
„ „ Home Helps provided ... ..	2

	Health Centre.	White House.
Number of Children treated at Minor Ailment Clinics ... ..	90	152
„ „ „ admitted to Orthopaedic Hospital		6
„ „ „ referred to Doctors or Infirmary		17
„ „ Cases referred to Relieving Officer		4
„ „ Children under 5 years receiving Free Milk		146
„ „ Expectant Mothers „ „ „		19
„ „ Nursing Mothers „ „ „		49
„ „ gallons of milk supplied ... ..		4349

### Ante-Natal Clinic.

The following figures show the work that has been done :

Number of sessions held ... ..	48
Number of patients examined : Ante-Natally 252 } Post Natally 19 }	*271
Total number of attendances ... ..	601

\*20 and 23 respectively of these numbers refer to women resident outside the Borough.

Of the 213 new Borough patients examined, the reference of the patients to the Ante-Natal Clinic was brought about as follows :—

<i>By whom referred.</i>	<i>For Ante-Natal Examination.</i>	<i>For Post Natal Examination.</i>
Doctors ... ..	6	—
Midwives ... ..	8	1
Health Visitors ... ..	83	14
Own Initiative ... ..	97	4

Of the 232 women examined Ante-Natally, 154 were known to have been confined during the year and the results of the confinements were as follows :—

Number of Live Births ... ..	144
„ „ Stillbirths ... ..	8
„ „ Miscarriages and Abortions ... ..	2
No record of birth (e.g. left town, etc.) ... ..	21
Not yet confined ... ..	57
Confinements at own home ... ..	96
„ „ Maternity Home ... ..	58
Deaths as a result of or following confinement ... ..	Nil

### **Maternity Beds.**

Beds for normal confinements are provided at the County Council Hospital.

Ante-natal cases for observation or treatment are also admitted when required.

The number of confinements of Shrewsbury women at the County Council Hospital during the year was 142.

### **Maternal Mortality and Morbidity.**

Cases of abnormal or difficult labour are admitted to the Maternity department at the Royal Salop Infirmary.

The following brief particulars are recorded.

Cases of Puerperal Pyrexia notified	...	...	...	10
"          "          "          removed to Hospital	...			1
Deaths from Puerperal Sepsis	...	...	...	1
Deaths from other Puerperal causes	...	...	...	1
Maternal Mortality Rate	...	...	...	3.3

The services of the Council's Obstetric Consultant were required on 5 occasions.

There were no consultations held in respect of Puerperal Pyrexia.

The Emergency Unit was not operated during the year.

### **INFANT LIFE PROTECTION.**

The three Health Visitors act as Infant Life Protection Visitors.

In the majority of cases foster children are brought to the Welfare Centres as well as being supervised in their homes.

The number of persons receiving children for reward on the register at the end of the year was 15.

The number of children on the register at the same date was 21.







